



# ***IOWA OUTDOORS***

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**[www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)**

[www.iowanaturestore.com](http://www.iowanaturestore.com)

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## **ANNUAL COLLECTION OF WALLEYES UNDERWAY**

The hours are long, the work is hard and the weather is often lousy. But the effort by Iowa DNR fisheries crews who started collecting adult walleye last weekend is appreciated by anglers across the state. Anglers know that chances are, any walleye caught from a lake or river that is not the Mississippi, started out from eggs collected by the Iowa DNR.

The goal is simple: each year beginning in early April, collect enough walleyes to supply 1,000 quarts of fertilized eggs at the Spirit Lake and Lake Rathbun fish hatcheries. How long does that take? Well, that depends on the fish.

Donna Muhm coordinates the walleye collection in the Iowa Great Lakes. With their northern location and cooler water, Muhm may begin netting her lakes after crews at Lake Rathbun and Storm Lake are well underway.

“Our goal is not to net every walleye, but to maximize fish-collecting efficiency,” she said. Muhm uses a combination of water temperature and length of daylight to select dates for the collection.

As the dates get closer, she collects a sample of walleyes to determine when it would be most productive for the crews to start netting. The crews will start netting Spirit Lake and East Okoboji Lake first, then move to the colder and deeper West Okoboji Lake. The goal is to collect a high percentage of females who are ready to spawn each time a net is pulled.

Muhm will also collect muskies and northern pike for the same purpose, but only a few muskies are required to meet Iowa’s stocking needs. Besides, one 45 inch muskie can produce a lot of eggs.

Fish are also collected at temporary hatchery operations at Clear Lake and Storm Lake. Fertilized eggs collected from Clear and Storm are sent to either Spirit Lake or to Lake Rathbun, depending on which operation has the need.

Fish collection is done at night. Crews will set entanglement nets in the evening perpendicular to shore in areas where walleyes will frequent while they try to spawn. The crews will return around 10 p.m. or so to collect the fish and re-set the nets. The fish collected will be taken to the hatcheries, separated by male and female, then separated again by those who appear ready to spawn from those who need more time to “ripen.”

This exercise is done twice each night. On the final run of the night, the nets are brought in.

During the day, the fish are checked again for their readiness to spawn. Those fish ready will be spawned then returned to the lake from which they came. The eggs are fertilized, then sent added to the incubators at Spirit Lake or Lake Rathbun. In about 18 to 24 days, the eggs will hatch. The newly hatched walleyes are called fry and they are about the size of a mosquito.

Muhm works closely with Chris Clouse, Jim Wahl, and Lannie Miller who coordinate the netting at the other locations.

Fisheries crews at Lake Rathbun have been netting walleyes for the past four nights. The four crews will each set six nets and collect fish twice each night.

**For more information, contact Muhm at 712-336-1840, Clouse at 641-647-2406, Wahl at 641-357-3517 or Miller at 712-657-2639.**

###

## **SPRING TURKEY HUNTERS ANXIOUS TO GET STARTED**

CHARITON – Waking up with the woods in the spring is an amazing experience, one that is difficult to explain to those who have not witnessed the timber come alive around them. It is a bond shared by spring turkey hunters who can communicate it with a look, a simple shake of the head and twinkle in the eye. It's a kind of "you really have to be there to understand."

On April 16, the Iowa timber will be filled with hunters as the first of Iowa's four turkey hunting seasons begin.

Spring turkey hunting attracts around 55,000 hunters, with about 45 percent finding success. What kind of turkey numbers can hunters expect to find in the woods this season?

Todd Gosselink, Iowa's forest wildlife biologist, said Iowa's mixture of agriculture land and timber supports a good turkey population. Basically, hunters do not have a problem finding turkeys.

"Wherever there are trees, you can find birds. Obviously the larger stands of timber will hold more turkeys. That being said, the best turkey numbers are found in western Iowa, and specifically in the Loess Hills area. Southern Iowa has good numbers as well," he said.

Gosselink said many places in Iowa had seen average to below average reproduction over the past few years, but overall Iowa still has a healthy wild turkey population. "Hunters will probably see fewer Jakes this spring, but there are good numbers of two year old birds," he said.

Hunters may now shoot two turkeys in one day in season four, provided they have tags, which is new. "This means they can stay out in the field if they do harvest a bird, and go after a second one on the same day," Gosselink said.

Turkey hunters are reminded of the harvest reporting requirement new last fall. Hunters who bag a turkey are required to report it by midnight of the day after it is harvested, or before taking it to a locker, or before processing it for consumption or before leaving the state, whichever comes first.

Hunters may report their harvest in one of two ways, either by calling the harvest reporting hotline or by reporting it through the DNR's website. The phone number is printed on the turkey tags. Hunters will be asked a few questions, then respond by touching the telephone keypad. On the Internet, go to [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov), then click on the harvest reporting button on the right side of the webpage.

Once the harvest is reported, the hunter will receive a confirmation number that they must write in the space provided on their tag for the report to be complete.

**For more information, contact Gosselink at 641-774-2958.**

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## **LANDOWNERS, TENANTS BEGIN REGISTRATION FOR REDUCED FEE TURKEY TAGS**

DES MOINES – A new rule requires landowners, tenants and eligible family members to register their farm unit with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in order to qualify for free and reduced fee turkey hunting licenses. The electronic licensing system will only issue Landowner-Tenant (LOT) licenses to those who are registered.

Landowners who already registered a qualifying piece of land in order to hunt deer or turkeys last fall, do not have to re-register. The registration is good for three years.

The requirement is intended to ensure only qualified landowners, tenants and their eligible family members receive the free or reduced fee licenses.

Online registration takes only a few minutes to complete. Customers click on the appropriate box and answer a few simple questions and submit the form. The preferred method of registration is online because the system is designed to keep errors to a minimum and to allow the LOT tags to be sold immediately upon completion.

Go to [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) and click on the Landowner Tenant Registration button on the right column. Registration is also available through the mail, but requires 10 business days after it is received by the DNR to process the form. Errors on mailed registration forms will further delay the process.

Individuals who have not obtained a hunting, fishing or trapping license in the past five years, must first call the DNR at 515-281-5918 to establish a customer record before registering online.

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## **SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS**

Hunters, hikers, bikers and more mushroom fans, should plan to wear blaze orange while walking into and through the woods. The brightly colored orange will help announce to others that you, in fact, are not a turkey. The different shades of brown, and the red, white and blue of a turkey head are all colors to avoid.

“You definitely want to be seen from all directions while walking into and out of the woods,” said Rod Slings, recreation safety program supervisor for the DNR. “And turkeys do not wear blaze orange.”

Slings, who also partakes in spring turkey hunting, said hunters on private property should know ahead of time if anyone else has permission to hunt the same ground, during the same season. If there are other hunters out there, each hunter should know where the others will be hunting.

“Knowing the layout of the land where the hunt will take place is all part of the hunting plan,” Slings said. “Even if you are not hunting together, if another hunter is out there, find out where they will be hunting, when they are going out and by which route. You must be able to see the identifying features of the male turkey. Also, bag that bird in a blaze orange game bag once it is harvested and tagged to carry it out of the timber.”

Shooting at movement and stalking a turkey are two ‘no-no’s in the safety world. Make sure to identify the target *and* what is beyond the target. And stick to the hunting plan.

“The goal of each hunt is for each hunter to return safely at the end of the day,” said Slings. “After all, we go hunting with our friends and our family; people who are close to us. Take time to be safe. Once you pull the trigger, there is no calling the shot back.”

**For more information, contact Slings at 515-281-8652.**

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## **POPULAR WESTERN IOWA STATE PARK TO RECEIVE MAJOR UPGRADES**

HARLAN – A major renovation of the campground at Prairie Rose State Park will begin when spring weather allows after a \$394,000 project was approved by the Natural Resource Commission at its March Meeting. The popular campground hosts about 17,600 campers each year.

The campground will be closed until the campground renovation project is complete.

The renovation project includes replacing the old water distribution system, upgrading the service of the 61 existing electrical campsites to 50 amps, converting 16 non-electric campsites to 50 amp electric sites, and adding seven sites that will offer full hook ups, which is water, sewer and electricity. There will be new fire rings added to each site as well.

“We are adding rock covered living spaces to all 77 of the camping pads that are being renovated,” said Angela Corio, landscape architect with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

There is a separate project soon to be underway at Prairie Rose which calls for building a new road near the campground that will lead to an area where camping cabins will be developed in the future. The road project is estimated at \$154,866.

The DNR is partnering with the Friends of Prairie Rose to fund the cabin project.

Both projects are scheduled for completion by middle to late June, weather permitting.

**For more information, contact Jan Curtis, park ranger, or Michelle Reinig, park manager, at 712-773-2701**

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## **UPGRADES TO BLACK HAWK STATE PARK 30 ACRES CAMPGROUND UNDERWAY**

LAKE VIEW – Work is progressing toward a middle May completion on the \$200,000 renovation and upgrade of the 30 acres campground at Black Hawk State Park. The campground is closed until the project is complete. The rest of the state park is open.

The project will change the face of the campground by increasing the size of the individual campsites and increasing the number of electrical sites. The campground is being upgraded from 68 electrical campsites to 89 sites, and all will offer 50 amp service. Of those 89 sites, 11 will be pull through and have individual water hydrants with the electrical service.

When the project is finished, the number of campsites will be reduced from 176 to 128. By reducing the number of campsites, the campground will have a more spacious feel to it. The additional room between campsites will allow for larger vehicles. All 89 electrical sites will have crushed stone surface.

The project also includes adding a new campground water distribution system and new fire rings to each campsites, replacing the existing water hydrants and is adding two new drinking water fountains at the shower building.

**For more information, contact Ryan O'Neill, park manager, at 712-657-8712.**

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[Electronic photos available]

## **DECREASED WATER QUALITY MAY POSE THREAT TO MIGRATING WATERFOWL ---- SCIENTISTS WILL TRACK IOWA DUCKS FROM OUTER SPACE**

By Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

KEOKUK--- Migratory waterfowl are currently winging their way toward ancestral nesting grounds. And although millions of migrating birds will fly across Iowa during the next several weeks, scientists will be keeping an especially watchful eye on the daily activities of seventeen lesser scaup ducks.

Following their arrival on Mississippi River Pool 19 last week, the two-pound birds [also known as bluebills] were captured, anesthetized, and then surgically implanted with state-of-the-art satellite transmitters. Following a two-hour recovery, the ducks [all females] were released to rejoin the northward migration.

According to Louisiana State University Professor and project coordinator, Alan Afton, this high-tech endeavor will allow scientists to chart the scaups' migration paths, habitat use, and ultimate survival. Although previous land based telemetry studies have been conducted in the state, this is the first time Iowa waterfowl have been monitored from space.

Afton, who has been studying scaup for more than thirty years, hopes the experiment will shed light into factors affecting the species' overall survival. Scaup populations have waned by as much as 50 percent during recent years --- down from 7 million breeding birds inventoried during the 1970s to around 3.5 million today.

"While most other duck species are holding their own or even showing an increase, scaup numbers continue to decline," says Afton. "Although there are theories, no one can say for certain why the decline is occurring. What we do know is that migrating scaup are in really good [physical] condition when they arrive at Keokuk each spring. But by the time those birds arrive in northwestern Minnesota, they are in poor body condition."

Ongoing water quality studies have revealed that 97 percent of surveyed wetlands in north central and northwestern Iowa contain measurable levels of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemical contaminants. Additional pollutants include widely-ranging levels of phosphorus and nitrogen. Many researchers suspect the pollution is disrupting aquatic food chains.

Biologists note that spring migration is a time when female scaup stoke up on the natural aquatic foods needed to build nutrient reserves essential to egg production. Failure to acquire those reserves could result in lowered nesting success and significant

decreases in the annual recruitment of young. Tiny crustaceans known as amphipods represent the scaup's most important food source as ducks migrate across Iowa's interior.

"For lesser scaup to maintain the healthy body condition needed for egg production, they must have amphipods," says DNR waterfowl biologist, Guy Zenner. "Historically, it was no problem for scaup and other water birds to find that nutritional source in Iowa. Today, wetland water quality has been compromised to the point that amphipods no longer exist in most of our marshlands. Scaup end up surviving on alternate food sources which are insufficient to increase or even maintain critical body weights."

"It's a water quality issue and everyone living in Iowa should be very dismayed by these findings," added Zenner.

During the next several days those seventeen radio implanted females are expected to leave the Mississippi River and disperse northwest across Iowa. As hens continue toward the boreal forest breeding grounds of northwestern Canada, space stationed satellites will track and report the ducks' whereabouts on a daily basis. In most instances, the information will be "location specific" where biologists can pinpoint the exact wetlands northbound scaup are utilizing.

Ducks Unlimited personnel are currently constructing a website that will allow the public to view the project's outer space observations. Beginning mid-April, the radioed scaups' progress can also be viewed on the Iowa DNR's web site. Transmitters are expected to provide data through the 2008 migration.

"Once we pinpoint the actual wetlands scaup are using, we can go in and sample those locations for food," says Afton. "Once we determine what types of wetlands the birds are using along the course of their migration, we can go in and look at the landscape features affecting those habitats."

"If we can identify a fairly narrow corridor that scaup are utilizing, then we can focus on improving the condition of those particular wetlands," said Afton.

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## **VOLUNTEERS OFFERED SPRING FEVER OPPORTUNITIES**

DES MOINES — With spring in sight, the Keepers of the Land Volunteer Program, at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, offers plenty of ways to help take away the spring fever itch.

- **Playground Assembly Opportunity:** Officials at Lake Macbride State Park are seeking volunteers to help with playground assembly. This opportunity starts April 1,

and continues until May 31. For more information contact Ron Puettman or Gwen Prentice at (319) 624-2200.

- **Park Enhancement Opportunity:** Members of the Friends of Cedar Rock State Park are seeking volunteers to assist with Spring Cleanup Day needs at the Frank Lloyd Wright House on April 14. For more information contact Pat Schmitz at (319) 934-3572.
- **Lake Cleanup Opportunity:** Members of the Carter Lake Preservation Society are seeking volunteers to help with cleanup efforts during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lake Cleanup on April 14. For more information contact Jeanne Eibes at (712) 347-6455.
- **Park Cleanup Opportunity:** Members of the Friends of the Ledges State Park are seeking volunteers to help with general fix-up projects on April 14. For more information contact Dennis Buckles at (515) 230-4345.
- **Water Quality Monitoring and Park Cleanup Opportunity:** Officials at Lake Keomah State Park are seeking volunteers to assist with water quality monitoring and cleanup efforts on April 17. For more information contact Merle Miller at (641) 673-6975.
- **Alternative Energy Event Opportunity:** DNR officials seeking volunteers to assist with various event set-up and logistics needs at the “Blues for Greens” alternative fuel vehicles showcase event on April 21. For more information contact Brian Crowe at (515) 281-8518.
- **Lake Cleanup Opportunity:** Members of the Friends of Lake Manawa State Park are seeking volunteers to assist with cleanup efforts during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cleanup Day event on April 29. For more information contact Mary Sellers at (712) 366-3130.
- **Spring Operation ReLeaf and Plant Some Shade Events:** Spring tree distribution events will be held throughout the state in the following counties: Story (April 14); Linn (April 21); Dallas (April 21); Pottawattamie (April 21); Scott (April 26); Lee (April 28); and Black Hawk (April 28). Volunteers are needed to help with various event set-up and logistics needs.
- **Prairie Rescue Event Opportunities:** April is Prairie Rescue Month and several prairie rescue days are scheduled throughout the state in the following counties: Webster (April 14); Fayette (April 16), Mahaska, Jasper, Lucas, O'Brien, Pottawattamie, Plymouth, Jones, and Kossuth (April 21); Chickasaw and Polk (April 28). Volunteers are needed to remove invasive woody vegetation from prairie sites.

Visit the Keepers of the Land website at [www.keepersoftheland.org](http://www.keepersoftheland.org) for information on these and more volunteer opportunities.

For more information, contact Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at [Merry.Rankin@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Merry.Rankin@dnr.state.ia.us).

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**PRESCRIBED FIRE: A BURNING ISSUE IN IOWA**

Ames - The spring prescribed fire burning season will begin in Iowa as soon as conditions allow. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources along with multiple other conservation agencies and organizations use prescribed or controlled burns for the ecological restoration to benefit prairie and woodland ecosystems.

“Prairie and woodland ecosystems are fire dependant meaning they need fire to maintain their natural state,” said Ryan Schlater, fire specialist with the Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau. “Native Americans and lightning were the major fire starters before settlers arrived in Iowa. Native Americans lit fires for a variety of reasons, including protection, driving of game and to bring game back. They knew the bison would come back to graze on the new, lush grasses that appear after a fire.”

Fire was contained when settlers arrived and started to settle the land. They brought with them their plows and saws, and turned the ground into “productive” row crops.

“When these acres were plowed under, they didn’t leave a continuous path of fuel for the fire to spread across the land,” said Schlater. “As more settlers poured into the state, more acres were plowed under and natural fire was suppressed. The settler and his family were happy to have suppressed fire, as it posed a threat to the survival of the family. Some first settlers were more afraid of fire than they were attacks by Native Americans.”

Some areas were spared the plow or saw, but they were far out of the reach of the lightning bolt or management by fire.

Today, natural resource managers, who strive for native plants in both prairie/wetland habitats and woodland habitats, mimic the natural regime of fire by doing prescribed fires or controlled burns on reconstructed and native ecosystems. These fires generally occur in the spring when conditions would allow for a burn, but more burns are being conducted in the summer and fall as well.

“Before settlers arrived these fires would burn anytime the conditions would allow,” added Schlater. “Fire wouldn’t just happen in the spring, and the native plants responded by adapting to fire. Prairie plants are deep rooted and can withstand the heat of a prairie burn. Some woodland plants, such as any of the oaks, developed thick, corky bark to withstand the heat of a fire.”

Proper training in fire management should be acquired before beginning any burn.

**For more information on fire, contact Ryan Schlater or other fire staff at the State Forest Nursery 515-233-1161.**

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## **GOOD SUPPLIES OF OAKS AND OTHER NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS AVAILABLE**

AMES – Last year, more than 7 million trees and shrubs were planted on 12,700 acres in Iowa for conservation efforts on private and public lands. As Iowa weather shifts from winter to spring, now is the perfect time for landowners to order trees.

“The State Forest Nursery and several private Iowa nurseries offer an excellent selection of Iowa grown conservation tree and shrub seedlings,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources forestry bureau.

There are good supplies of white, red, bur and swamp white oak, black walnut, silver maple and 37 other species of conifers, hardwood trees and shrubs available from the State Forest Nursery in Ames.

These conservation trees and shrubs are bareroot seedlings from seed collected locally, and range in size from 8 to 24 inches tall. State Forest Nursery prices have not changed. Tree prices range from \$0.25 for an 8- to 16-inch tall conifer, such as Norway spruce or red cedar, to \$0.45 for a 17- to 24-inch tall hardwood tree or shrub, such as the oaks. Plants are sold in lots of 100, and a minimum order of 500 plants.

“For those who can not plant 500 trees and shrubs but are interested in planting their small acreage for wildlife habitat,” Walkowiak said. “We have a special wildlife ‘create-a-packet’ of 200 plants involving up to four different species of their choosing for \$90.”

Other packets available include a Turkey packet designed in cooperation with the Iowa Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation contains 50 gray dogwoods, 50 bur, 50 pin, and 50 white oak for mast production. A Pheasant packet designed in cooperation with Pheasants Forever that contains 50 red cedar, 50 wild plum, 50 ninebark and 50 gray dogwood. A Quail packet contains 100 wild plum and 100 gray dogwood.

A Songbird packet designed in cooperation with Iowa Audubon that is perfect for that odd corner in a larger backyard contains two bur oak, two white pine, four wild plum, four chokecherry, four gray dogwood and four serviceberry. The songbird packets costs \$20, which includes shipping.

To order conservation seedlings from the State Forest Nursery call 1-800-865-2477 M-F 8-4:30 p.m., or go to [www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/) to place an order on line. Credit card orders are accepted.

**For more information, contact Walkowiak at 515-242-5966**

## **STATE PRESERVES BOARD TO MEET APRIL 6 AT FORT ATKINSON**

DES MOINES – The State Preserves Advisory Board will meet at 8:30 a.m., April 6, at the Fort Atkinson Public Library, 302 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, in Fort Atkinson.

The board will tour Fort Atkinson and Saint James Lutheran Church state preserves at 1 p.m., on April 5. The meeting and tour is open to the public.

Members of the State Preserves Advisory Board are Deborah Lewis, Carl Kurtz, Laura Jackson, Scott Moats, Armando Rosales, Cynthia Peterson and Liz Christiansen, deputy director of the DNR

A more detailed agenda is available on the Iowa DNR's website [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) under State Parks / Preserves, then click on Preserves Advisory Board link.

The following is the meeting agenda.

- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes of January Meeting
- Preserve Managers Conference Update
- Request for Permission to Conduct Research
- Bixby State Preserve
- Proposal Selections for Fiscal Year 2008
- Election of Chair
- Open Discussion

**For more information, contact Daryl Howell at 515-281-8524.**

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## **DNR TO HOST PUBLIC MEETING APRIL 19 ON PROPOSED WILDLIFE RULES**

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a public meeting to discuss a number of new proposed regulations covering deer hunting, fall wild turkey hunting, and waterfowl seasons. The meeting will be conducted over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) on April 19, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

“This is an opportunity for our hunters and people who support wildlife to give us some feedback on these regulations,” said Dale Garner, chief of the DNR's wildlife

bureau. “We will go over the proposed regulations and seasons, and take comments from anyone willing to speak, then, if there is any time remaining, we will open the discussion to other topics.”

The proposed changes include reducing the number of counties able to participate in the January and November antlerless deer only seasons, eliminate the state forest zones for turkey hunting, and establish the fall 2007, spring 2008 hunting seasons and bag limits.

The DNR will have staff members from the wildlife bureau at each site to help with the meeting.

#### **ICN Locations:**

Ames	Iowa State University 1, Lagomarcino Hall, Corner of Knoll Road and Pamel Dr., Room N147 (515) 294-4111
Burlington	Great River Area Education Agency 16, 3601 West Avenue (319) 753-6561
Calmar	South Winneshiek High School, 203 W. South St., Room 17(563) 562-3269
Cedar Falls	Area Education Agency 267, 3712 Cedar Heights Dr. (319) 273-8200
Cedar Rapids	Kirkwood Community College 5, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Washington Hall, Room 104 (319) 398-5452
Centerville	Centerville National Guard Armory, Dewey Road, RR1, Box 125B (641) 683-9826
Creston	Green Valley Area Education Agency 14, 1405 N. Lincoln, Turner Room (641) 782-8443
Davenport	North High School, 626 W. 53 <sup>rd</sup> St., Room 576 (563) 388-9880
Dubuque	Senior High School, 1800 Clarke Dr., Room A-123 (563) 552-5500
Fort Dodge	Fort Dodge High School, 819 N 25 <sup>th</sup> St., Room 12 (515) 955-1770
Iowa City	Iowa City National Guard Armory, 925 South Dubuque St. (319) 337-7675
Marshalltown	Iowa Valley Community College District 1, 3702 South Center St., Continuing Education Center, Room 806 (641) 752-4645
Mason City	North Iowa Area Community College 1, 500 College Dr., Activity Center, Room 106 (641) 423-1264
Ottumwa	Ottumwa National Guard Armory, 2858 N. Court Road (641) 683-9826
Red Oak	Red Oak National Guard Armory, RR 1 Park West Road, Old Hwy. 34 (712) 623-2344
Sioux City	Northwest Area Education Agency 12, 1520 Morningside Avenue, Room 206 (712) 274-6000
Spencer	Spencer National Guard Armory, 11 East 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street (712) 262-3904
West Des Moines	Dowling Catholic High School, 1400 Buffalo Road., Room 516 (515) 225-3000

**For more information, contact Garner at 515-281-6156 or Willie Suchy at 515-281-8660.**

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# ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of April 3, 2007**

**www.iowadnr.gov**

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

## **Northeast**

**Trout** stocking is underway. Stocking information for specific streams can be found on the web at by going through the DNR web site at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) or directly to <http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/news/stockrep/groupstock.pdf>. Anglers may also call the recorded trout stocking information hotline at 563-927-5736.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

## **Northwest**

**Little Sioux River** (Dickinson and Clay): Walleye fishing is good using jigs and twisters.

**Center Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is good in the evening on the east side of the lake and by the north boat ramp. Throwing jigs tipped with minnows will produce walleye along with an occasional white bass.

**Minnewashta** (Dickinson): A few walleyes are being picked up around the bridges. A reminder the new slot limit is in effect for Minnewashta (walleyes between 17 and 22 inches long must be immediately released).

**Silver Lake** (Dickinson): Walleyes are being caught near Trappers Bay in the evening.

**Little Spirit** (Dickinson): Bullheads are being caught on the south end of the lake.

**West Okoboji** (Dickinson): Crappie and bluegill fishing is fair in the Triboji canals. Bluegill fishing has been fair in the Emerson Bay canals.

**Willow Creek** (Osceola): Bluegills are being caught with a small piece of night crawler under a bobber.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Anglers are catching yellow bass in the Ventura end of the lake on warm days. Anglers fishing minnows on the bottom or small jigs are finding the best yellow bass action. Walleye fishing is fair at the Ventura Grade, Dodge's Point, the Island and the east shoreline. Cool temperatures will slow fishing, but the next warming trend should pick the action back up.

**Rice Lake** (Worth): Bullheads are hitting night crawlers on the warmer days. Bullhead size is good, with fish from 9 to 11 inches available.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

## **Southwest**

**Big Creek** (Polk): Anglers are picking up small crappies and some walleyes. Try fishing around structure.

**Contact: Ben Dodd (515) 432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes.**

**Icaria** (Adams): Anglers are catching limits of 1.5 to 5 pound size catfish on cut bait at east end of the lake. Walleyes are being caught on jigs on the south side around marina and dam. Lake has about 9 inches to go until it is full.

**Three Mile** (Union): Anglers are catching walleyes on jigs.

**Contact: Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes.**

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Anglers are catching walleyes and small crappies in canal and along south shore.

**DeSoto Bend** (Harrison): The lake will open for fishing on April 15.

**Farm Ponds:** Farm ponds are beginning to warm up now and anglers should be able to pick up fish in these area ponds. Be sure to ask permission from the landowner first, however.

**Contact: Bryan Hayes (712) 769-2587 for information on the above area lakes.**

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16, 17 and 18:** Water temp at Muscatine is 51 degrees. River stage has increased approximately 1/3 foot due to rains over the weekend in pools 16, 17, and 18. Pools 16 and 17 are a couple of feet below flood stage. Pool 18 is one-half of a foot below flood stage, which means some access points may not be usable. The Corps has opened the gates at Keokuk and the stage is dropping rapidly in Pool 19.

Fishing in the Quad Cities area has been good for bass and crappie in Sunset Marina. Fishing for walleye and sauger has been fair near the marina and the island. Fishing for catfish has been good with 31-pound and 52-pound flathead catfish being taken this week.

**Lake Darling** (Washington): Water temperature is 40 degrees. Anglers are picking up a few catfish along the rocky shorelines. Look for crappies to be in deeper water around the sunken trees. Look for bass to be working the shallow bays if we get a warm sunny afternoon this week.

**Lake Odessa** (Louisa): A few people are catching catfish near the inlet and down in the Sand Run area. Shad guts seem to be working the best.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): Channel catfish have been biting on shad sides or cut bait along windy shorelines. Water temperature is up to 48 degrees.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Largemouth bass and bluegills are being caught in 1 to 2 feet of water. A few walleyes and crappies are being caught in deeper water near the dam.

**Lake Wapello** (Davis): Largemouth bass continue to hit on artificial worms. Bluegills are being caught on jigs tipped with a wax worm and fished over structure. A few crappies are also being caught.

**Hannan Lake** (Benton): Largemouth bass are being caught around the shorelines on various artificial lures. Some nicer sized bluegills have been caught around the brush

piles in about 8 feet of water. On warmer days, crappies have been caught near the shore. Keep in mind that minnows are not allowed at this lake.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Some decent sized crappies are being taken in the brush piles on small jigs or minnows. Walleye anglers may also want to try their luck toward evening fishing around shallow rock for spawning walleyes.

**Coralville Reservoir** (Johnson): Channel catfish are feeding on dead shad right now. Some anglers are having a bit of success, especially above Sandy Beach area. Try shad guts or fillets for best results. Keep in mind the water level is extremely low and boaters should use caution in certain areas.

**Skunk River** (Washington and Henry): River is high and muddy. It is forecasted to crest on Wednesday about one foot below flood stage.

**Cedar River** (Louisa): The river is on its way down after cresting above flood stage.

**Wapsipinicon and Cedar Rivers** (Linn): Walleyes are being taken below the dams on twisters or jig/minnows.

**Iowa River** (Washington and Louisa): The river is a bank full with some flooding in low lying areas. NOAA forecasts it to stay at or above flood stage the rest of the week.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

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